

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-51 (canceled)

52. (new) A wheelbarrow comprising:
a plurality of electric motors having different power ratings,
an electric motor mounting for detachable attachment of any
selected one of the plurality of electric motors, and
a mechanical coupling to drive a wheel using the selected one of
the plurality of electric motors, the selected electric motor, when
attached to the electric motor mounting, operating in conjunction with
the mechanical coupling to provide a mechanical advantage determined
by a user to supplement manual effort to drive the wheelbarrow, the
selected electric motor providing force to drive the wheelbarrow when
combined with manual effort and to allow the user to variably
determine the proportion of the presented load due to the selected
electric motor, and the mechanical coupling comprising a drive
coupling to allow the wheel to freely rotate when not driven by one of
the electric motors.

53. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 52 wherein the
selected electric motor is controlled by a switch.

54. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 53 wherein the switch
is of a hold to sustain operation type, to allow an operator to
determine whether the wheel is driven or not.

55. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 52 wherein the
selected electric motor is controlled by a status sensor.

56. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 55 wherein the status
sensor senses wheelbarrow speed or barrow load or travel angle in
order to determine whether the wheel is driven.

57. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 52 wherein the
mechanical coupling is a chain or belt between the wheel and the
electric motor.

58. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 52 wherein the wheel has a sprocket cog for mechanical coupling from the selected electric motor.

59. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 58 wherein the sprocket cog is sized relative to a drive cog coupled to the selected electric motor such that there is appropriate mechanical advantage to enable the wheel to be driven.

60. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 59 wherein the mechanical advantage between the sprocket cog and the drive cog may be altered by a user.

61. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 60 wherein the selected electric motor is coupled to a detachable electrical battery.

62. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 61 wherein the electrical battery is rechargeable.

63. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 52 wherein the selected electric motor or any electrical battery are held in waterproof mountings.

64. (new) A wheelbarrow comprising:
a support frame,
a container attached to the support frame,
a wheel mounted to the support frame for supporting the container when the wheelbarrow is in use,
a plurality of electric motors having different power ratings,
an electric motor mounting for detachable attachment of any selected one of the plurality of electric motors to the support frame, and
a mechanical coupling to drive the wheel using the selected one of the plurality of electric motors, the selected electric motor, when attached to the electric motor mounting, operating in conjunction with the mechanical coupling to provide a mechanical advantage determined by a user to supplement manual effort to drive the wheelbarrow, the selected electric motor providing force to drive the wheelbarrow when

combined with manual effort and to allow the user to variably determine the proportion of the presented load due to the selected electric motor, and the mechanical coupling comprising a drive coupling to allow the wheel to freely rotate when not driven by one of the electric motors.

65. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 64 wherein the electric motor is controlled by a switch of a hold to sustain operation type, to allow an operator to determine whether the wheel is driven or not.

66. (new) A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 64 wherein the electric motor is controlled by a status sensor that senses wheelbarrow speed or barrow load or travel angle in order to determine whether the wheel is driven.

67. (new) A drive mechanism for retro fit to a wheelbarrow having a wheel, the mechanism comprising an electric motor, a battery and a mechanical coupling for coupling the electric motor to the wheel of the wheelbarrow, the electric motor being controlled by a control switch to allow selective driving of the wheel when required and allow relative free rotation of the wheel when not.

68. (new) A mechanism as claimed in claim 67 wherein the mechanism incorporates a sprocket cog to be secured to a hub of the wheel of the wheelbarrow.

69. (new) A mechanism as claimed in claim 67 wherein an electric motor is fitted in a suitable position to allow a drive train to be connected to the wheel of the wheelbarrow.

70. (new) A mechanism as claimed in claim 69 wherein the drive train is fitted to a shaft of a gearbox which is driven by an electric motor.

71. (new) A mechanism as claimed in claim 67 wherein a larger sprocket is fixed to the shaft attached to the wheel on a wheelbarrow, or directly onto the side of the wheel.

72. (new) A mechanism as claimed in claim 67 wherein a rechargeable battery is fitted on the underside of the wheelbarrow and is of a plug in type so that as one battery is exhausted a second battery, which has been charged, can be plugged into a socket which connects it to suitable electrical switchgear.

73. (new) A mechanism as claimed in claim 72 wherein the battery can then be connected to a bell type press switch which is fitted adjacent to one of the handles of the wheelbarrow.

74. (new) A mechanism as claimed in claim 73 wherein when the bell switch is pressed contact is made through wiring to the electric motor.